

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
OCTOBER 25, 2021

Members of the State Board of Public School Education met in the CTE Conference Room and via Teams on Monday, October 25, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Sonia Meehl at 1:03 PM with the following State Board members in attendance:

Dr. Steve Holen

Mr. Josh Johnson

Mr. Jeff Fastnacht

Ms. Maria Effetz Hanson

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler – joined in progress

Ms. Sonia Meehl

Absent: Burdell Johnson

Also present: Jennifer Carlson (NESC), Debbie Marshall (NCEC), Allyson Hicks, Alice Johnson, Caryn Woodstead

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Josh Johnson moved that the minutes of the September 20, 2021, meeting be approved. Mr. Fastnacht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**REA AUDIT PRESENTATIONS**

**NESC** – Jennifer Carlson, Director, presented the most recent audit of the NESC, which is a part of the audit for Devils Lake Public Schools, the fiscal agent for the REA. She reported that the audit showed no discrepancies for the REA. Mr. Josh Johnson asked Ms. Carlson to give an overview of the services provided by the NESC. Ms. Carlson provided the board members with a handout outlining their services, including professional development, school-based programs and services, and direct student services. She also shared that the NESC works collaboratively with several other REA's on programming and professional development. She shared that the NESC has twenty-five member school districts. Mr. Fastnacht asked Ms. Carlson to share the end-of-year financials for the REA. Ms. Carlson shared the report that is provided to NDDPI each year. Mr. Josh Johnson asked Ms. Carlson to share information about the governing board for the NESC.

Ms. Meehl asked Ms. Hicks if the Board was meeting its statutory obligation if the audit presented was that of the school district acting as the fiscal agent and not the REA separately. Ms. Hicks informed the Board that it was their obligation to accept the audit, not approve it.

The Board had one final question for Ms. Carlson and asked what she was most proud of in her time with the NESC. She shared that she was most proud of the growth the REA has seen in her time there.

Mr. Josh Johnson moved to accept the audit of the NESC. Mr. Fastnacht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**NCEC** – Debbie Marshall, Director, presented the most recent audit for the NCEC. Ms. Marshall shared that the fiscal agent for the NCEC is Dunseith Public School, but the REA has its own audit. Ms. Marshall shared that the REA serves twelve school districts. She shared that due to Covid, the NCEC had a larger carry-over than usual. She informed the Board that their primary program is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program and that part of the larger carry-over was because they were not able to provide all of the summer programming that they have in the past. She went on to say that they have one of the higher membership dues of any of the REA's in the state, but as a result, they are able to provide many of their services at no charge to member schools. Ms. Marshall explained that there was a note in their audit regarding checks and balances for finances and further explained to the Board the system they are using to ensure those checks and balances.

Ms. Marshall told the Board that their board had approved the audit in February of 2021. Ms. Marshall shared that they work collaboratively with other REA's on some projects. Mr. Josh Johnson asked Ms. Marshall what makes her the most proud of the NCEC. Ms. Marshall's response was the growth, from providing more services to reaching a broader audience, including teachers and administrators.

Dr. Holen moved to accept the audit of the NCEC. Mr. Fastnacht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **LEARNING CONTINUUM UPDATE**

Superintendent Baesler shared a PowerPoint highlighting a legislative recap and status update as to the progress of the learning continuum. She let the Board know that they would have the final approval of the continuum. She shared that, at this time, there is no other state that is awarding diplomas on a statewide basis based on something that is certified at a state level. She gave an overview of the timeline of the continuum design process and North Dakota's Portrait of a Graduate.

There was discussion around when the continuum may be before the Board to take action. Superintendent Baesler shared the link to the draft of the learning continuum.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will Monday, November 22, 2021.

Mr. Josh Johnson raised the question of whether the Board should have a template or a framework to provide to REA's when they present their audits in the future. Dr. Holen mentioned that he thought there are five areas in Century Code that REA's are to address in their report to the State Board of Public School Education. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Meehl were asked to put something together for the next meeting for the

Board to review. Superintendent Baesler asked Ms. Woodstead to consult with Adam Tescher and Jamie Mertz to see what financial information is reported to NDDPI by the REA's.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Ms. Sonia Meehl  
Chairperson

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Kirsten Baesler  
Executive Secretary